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New York

President:	Sir Mark Lyall Grant	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Argentina	Ms. Millicay
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	France	Mr. Bertoux
	Guatemala	Mr. Briz Gutiérrez
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Bouchaara
	Pakistan	Mr. Masood Khan
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia (S/2013/326)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia (S/2013/326)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Ethiopia and Somalia to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome the presence at the Council table of Her Excellency Ms. Fowsiyo Yusuf Haji Adan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Somali Republic.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/326, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on Somalia.

I recognize the presence of the Deputy Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Jan Eliasson, and give him the floor.

The Deputy Secretary-General: I want to begin by thanking the United Kingdom for convening this meeting during its Council presidency and for its Government's active role on Somalia, most recently by hosting the London Conference on 7 May this year.

The Secretary-General and I have long followed developments closely. Somalia has held a special place in my heart since I worked in the country in 1992 as the first United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator. As members know, those were very dark days. It is a source of deep satisfaction that today we welcome the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Somalia, Mrs. Adan, who represents a Government committed to leading the nation to peace, unity, development and a life of dignity for all.

Somalia still faces many challenges. But we must remember how far we have come, not least thanks to the women and men of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), as well as to the Somali National Security Force and their allies. I pay tribute to their commitment and courage in risking their lives to bring peace to Somalia. They have made progress possible. We must not allow any reversals of the hard-won gains.

This week, we passed a major milestone in the engagement of the United Nations in Somalia with the successful launch of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) in Mogadishu. The Secretary-General's new Special Representative, Mr. Nicholas Kay, has already met the Speaker of Parliament and the Prime Minister, pending President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's return to the country. UNSOM will support political dialogue, peacebuilding and the protection of human rights. However, successfully meeting the major peacebuilding challenges will depend primarily on the efforts of the Government of Somalia. Foremost among those challenges is the establishment of a well-functioning federal structure. A parallel challenge are cooperative relations between Somalia and its neighbours, based on mutual and complementary interest.

Eight months since its formation, the Federal Government of Somalia has established its political programme and presented plans for stabilization and peacebuilding. It has begun reaching out beyond Mogadishu to realize its vision of a federated Somalia, demonstrating commitment to dialogue with other regional administrations. A process has been launched to review the provisional Constitution ahead of the elections planned for 2016. I commend the Government for its efforts, which deserve full and continuing international support.

Realizing a federal State in Somalia is a complex and demanding task. We see the high stakes in the recent rise in tensions in Kismayo following the declaration of a regional State in early April. On 15 May, 500 delegates to a conference in Kismayo selected a President of what was called the "Jubaland State of Somalia". That administration is regarded by the Federal Government as illegal and unconstitutional. The process has also been criticized for being insufficiently inclusive. Since then, six other candidates have declared themselves President of the new entity. While there have so far been no reports of military confrontation so far, the situation remains volatile.

The issues related to the unity and federalism of Somalia can be resolved only through dialogue among the Somalis themselves. That requires patience and pragmatism on all sides. The United Nations stands ready, if requested, to provide good offices in full

respect for the lead role of the Government of Somalia. At the same time, Somalia needs the support of its partners, neighbours and friends. The efforts being made by the leaders of Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia to develop trust and cooperative relationships are essential and must continue. There is agreement that a strong and stable Somalia is in the interests of all. That recognition should guide regional efforts to address outstanding issues and potential sources of friction.

In that regard, I fully support the statement resulting from the extraordinary summit of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) last month, which recognized the lead role of the Federal Government in addressing the situation in Kismayo. The summit also recommended that the Government convene a reconciliation conference with the support of IGAD and the United Nations.

Meanwhile, let us recall that AMISOM has a critical role to play in ensuring security and the freedom of movement for all those engaged in the peace process. As in so many countries across the continent, partnership between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) is vital to reaching our objectives in Somalia. With the deployment of UNSOM, we will work together on political strategy, peacebuilding and stabilization, as well as the protection of human rights. The new Mission's impact will also depend upon effective security arrangements in close collaboration with AMISOM.

I wish to call attention to the Secretary-General's statement in his report (S/2013/326) that AMISOM is reaching its operational limit in terms of holding and expanding areas under its control. In order to keep the momentum of the past year, the Mission needs additional resources for ground and air mobility, including helicopters and armoured personnel carriers, as well as the means to reconfigure its forces. I urge Council members to give positive consideration to these requests. In addition, we remain open to discussions on long-term options for the security track, together with the African Union and the Federal Government of Somalia. In a follow-up to the Security Council's request, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, jointly with the AU and in close consultation with the Somali Government, will undertake an exercise to review AMISOM's deployment and establish benchmarks for the possible future deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation.

Over the long term, Somalia must assume its own responsibilities through integrated, accountable and effective security institutions. That will require a well-funded and coordinated strategic approach. I welcome the pledges of support of more than $300 million made at the second London Conference and appeal to donors to live up to their commitments. At the Conference, I was impressed by the resolve of Somalia and its neighbours to forge positive relationships in the region. That is essential to addressing mutual interests and build a more stable and prosperous region for all. We discussed the scope for economic cooperation between Somalia and its neighbours, as well as the need to create an environment conducive to the safe and voluntary return of refugees. I wish to underline the importance of achieving coordinated and common positions of States in the region in support of the processes led by the Federal Government of Somalia, as exemplified in IGAD's recent communiqué. I strongly encourage all partners to continue their dialogue and to work closely together in that spirit on efforts towards Somali Statebuilding and peacebuilding.

We should accept that Somalia will require sustained and generous international support to continue on the path of progress. That means making a clear commitment assisting to the Federal Government in rapidly developing its plans and building its capacities. We should all agree on a framework for future coordination, building on the second London Conference and on the side meeting on Somalia at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development. I welcome the launch of the "New Deal" and look forward to the development of a new aid compact, with Somalis in the centre, accompanied by unified funding mechanisms.

In conclusion, as we enter a new era of United Nations engagement in Somalia, I would like to express my appreciation to the outgoing Special Representative, Ambassador Augustine Mahiga, for his many contributions in helping to lay a foundation for Somalia's path to lasting peace. I also congratulate Special Representative of the Secretary-General Nicholas Kay on his new role. I look forward to his engagement on the political process as well as the other areas of UNSOM's mandate. I thank all those in Somalia and at Headquarters who have worked hard to ensure the deployment of UNSOM on time.

We are committed to delivering on the Security Council's vision for a dynamic new United Nations

presence in Somalia, grounded in respect for Somali leadership and ownership. UNSOM has already set up its headquarters in Mogadishu and will establish its presence across the country, notably in areas recovered from Al-Shabaab as well as in Garowe and Hargeisa. The Mission will support political dialogue and advise the Government on peacebuilding and state-building, including the coordination of international assistance. UNSOM will be an integrated Mission, offering "one door to knock on" for Somalia's engagement with the United Nations.

I appeal to the Council to support UNSOM and help it to fulfil its mandate, including by providing the necessary resources to the Mission itself and to Somalia. I call on all to come together in support of the new Government in its efforts to bring peace and stability to the people of Somalia. The Secretary-General and I firmly believe that with the continuous support and firm commitment of its partners, Somalia can achieve its vision: a country in unity and at peace with itself and its neighbours, living under the rule of law and on the path to economic stability and decent living conditions for all.

The President: I thank the Deputy Secretary-General very much for his statement. I should now like to make a satement in my national capacity.

It is an honour for me to be here this morning to preside over this meeting of the Security Council on Somalia. I am grateful to the Deputy Secretary-General for his insightful briefing.

Following the Somalia Conference on 7 May, the United Kingdom has chosen to make the situation in Somalia a high priority for its presidency of the Security Council this month. The Conference was distinguished by the close working partnership between Somalia and the United Kingdom. I am therefore delighted that the Deputy Prime Minister has joined our meeting today. I commend her tireless efforts since taking office to promote peace and stability in Somalia.

Somalia has been through a dramatic shift over the past 12 months. A new Parliament and Government have been appointed in the most representative political process in a generation. Somalia has a provisional Constitution. The economy is recovering. The diaspora are returning. Above all, there is a sense of hope. Somalis are determining their own future.

Last month in London, we saw a united international community ready to support the next phase of recovery: Somali-owned and Somali-led. Somali Ministers shared detailed plans for developing the country's armed forces, police, justice sector and public financial management systems. The international community endorsed those plans and committed expertise and funding to deliver them.

The Security Council can be proud of its recent role in Somalia, from ensuring that the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has the resources and mandate to succeed, to guiding the United Nations towards its deepest level of engagement in Somalia for more than two decades. The Council has stood beside and behind the Somali people. We have a collective responsibility to ensure that continues.

I am delighted that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) deployed on 3 June. The Mission will play a key role in making the efforts of the United Nations more coordinated and coherent and in providing Somalis with "one door to knock on".

Of course, none of that progress would have been possible without the enormous contribution of the African Union, and of AMISOM in particular. I pay tribute to the bravery and sacrifices of all AMISOM, Ethiopian and Somali personnel. History will show the magnitude and importance of their contribution and efforts in bringing peace to Somalia.

We look to both the United Nations and the African Union to work in a complementary manner, for the good of the Somali people. We are encouraged by the forthcoming joint United Nations/AU review of AMISOM's progress. The development of AMISOM's concept of operations in January 2012 was an example of the strong cooperation between both organisations. The results on the ground speak for themselves. We will support that work in any way we can.

It is in the interests of Somalia, the region and the wider international community that momentum be maintained, but we cannot be complacent. History has shown that, if Somalia is allowed to backslide into instability and conflict, the consequences will be felt well outside its borders in the form of regional instability, piracy and terrorism.

For all the progress that we have seen, Somalia continues to face huge challenges. We should be under no illusions as to the sustained efforts that will be required, in Somalia and from its international partners, to ensure that progress continues. Somalia lacks public

services — schools, hospitals, clean water supplies. More than 70 per cent of Somalis still live on less than $2 a day. There is very real suffering on a daily basis. We cannot stand by and risk another famine like the 2011 crisis, when more than quarter of a million people are confirmed to have died.

Al-Shabaab is under real pressure but, as recent attacks have shown, it still remains determined to kill innocent civilians and halt Somalia's progress towards peace and prosperity.

The international community must work to continue partnership with the Somali Government to address those challenges. That means supporting President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's six-point plan by ensuring that the commitments made at the Somalia Conference are fully realized and aligned in support with Somali priorities. It means ensuring the right blend of international support to Somalia. It is imperative that AMISOM and the United Nations, especially through UNSOM and bilateral partners, work closely together in a coordinated manner. It means ensuring that AMISOM has the appropriate tools to carry out its mandate and to develop effective, legitimate and affordable national security forces, with clear accountabiliyt and oversight, which will be essential for the Somali Government to fulfil its role of protecting people and property and preserving public order.

International partners should work together to ensure that our support to the development of Somali security forces is coordinated and aligned to the Federal Government's plans. It means addressing serious human rights concerns. Somalia remains one of the worst places in the world to be a woman. I welcome the Government of Somalia's commitment to improving human rights, tackling sexual and gender-based violence and protecting both women and children from the effects of conflict. They will have all of our support as they tackle those vital issues. Ultimately, political progress will remain the key to the long-term stability of Somalia.

I welcome the Somali Government's commitment to holding democratic elections in 2016; to achieve that, much needs to be done to resolve the outstanding constitutional issues and the relationship between the Federal Government and the regions. I welcome the recent dialogue between the Government of Somalia and the regions and hope that it will continue. I commend the role played by IGAD and Somalia's neighbours. We were pleased to host the talks between Somalia and Somaliland in Chevening in June 2012 and welcome the continuation of the dialogue in Turkey. It is only through dialogue that lasting solutions can be developed.

I also welcome the European Union's plans to hold a conference on Somalia in September. The conference will help sustain the momentum to build a new and long-term partnership between Somalia and the international community for political reconstruction and economic development.

In conclusion, Somalia has come a long way since the days of extremism and tyranny, which brought nothing but misery to the long-suffering Somali people. The next 12 months will be pivotal for Somalia. We must support the Federal Government to ensure that plans agreed in London are implemented swiftly to realize improvements in security, policing, justice and public financial management. We must ensure that ordinary Somalis across the country see changes on the ground. And we must improve coordination between the international community. Along with the Council, the United Kingdom will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Somali people and their Government as they continue their journey towards a brighter tomorrow.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Council.

Mr. Briz Gutiérrez (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, we would like to thank you, Mr. President, for presiding over this meeting, as well as to congratulate the United Kingdom on the successful holding of the London Conference on Somalia on 7 May. We also thank Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson for his statement. Weare honoured by the presence of Somalia's Minister for Foreign Affairs.

We would like to touch on five particular subjects.

First, we believe that the London Conference set an important precedent in reaffirming Somalia's leadership position, given its role as co-host. We acknowledge the great efforts that Somalia's Government has made to leave behind two decades of crisis. That also required a great collective effort on the part of its closest partners, in particular the troop-contributing countries to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the Intergovernmental Authority

on Development (IGAD) and bilateral donors. We appreciate the international community's commitment to providing financial assistance in three vital areas for the stability of Somalia, namely, security, justice and reform of the administration of public finances. In addition, we want to highlight the joint communiqué by Somalia and the United Nations with regard to the prevention of sexual violence. We hope that the Somali Government will implement the recommendations set out in that document as soon as possible.

Secondly, we thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Agustin Mahiga for his dedication. We also welcome the appointment of Mr. Nicholas Kay as the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). We hope that UNSOM will manage to establish a constructive relationship with the Somali Government to face key challenges, such as national reconciliation and the distribution of power and resources among the regions, the reconstruction of State institutions and the strengthening of human rights.

Thirdly, we agree that reform in the security sector is a priority and we take note of the national security plan presented by the Somali Federal Government. Like others, we believe that it is vital to consolidate the armed and police forces in Somalia. In the light of the partial lifting of the arms embargo, it is important that Somalia establish the safeguards that the Security Council called for in resolution 2093 (2013.) We also cannot fail to acknowledge the work done by the African Union Mission in Somalia. We hope that it can count on the funding needed to extend its presence to recovered areas.

Fourthly, we are concerned about the situation in southern Somalia, and in particular about the issue of "Jubaland". That situation must be resolved through a constructive dialogue that respects the provisional Constitution, with the common goal of consolidating a federal State in Somalia. Stabilizing the region is vital for the future of Somalia and, in that regard, we take note of recent IGAD's visit to Kismaayo. Al-Shabaab's links to the region and the revenues it derives from the unlawful selling of charcoal is also of great concern. We consider it important to ensure that the embargo on that product be implemented.

Fifthly, we would like to reiterate the point that the Secretary-General made in his most recent report (S/2013/326), namely, that achieving stability in Somalia is in everyone's best interest. We commend the efforts that the new Government has made in building links and trust with all its neighbours. In that regard, we recognize IGAD's important role in supporting the priorities of the Somali Federal Government.

Somalia has one of the longest coastlines in Africa. In the past, its coasts have been used for illegal activities such piracy, illegal fishing and the dumping of toxic waste. However, we hope that the Somali coast will soon become a source of revenue for the Somali population, rather than a challenge to the country.

Finally, my delegation supports the draft presidential statement that will be adopted at the end of today's meeting

Mr. Menan (Togo) (*spoke in French*): Allow me, Mr. President, to express my gratitude to your country, the United Kingdom, for having organized this briefing on Somalia as well as for the special attention that you have always paid to the reconstruction of that country. I would like to pay tribute to you, Mr. Minister, and thank you for being here among us to preside over this discussion. Next, I would like to welcome to the Security Council Ms. Fawzia Yusuf Haji Adam, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Somalia. Finally, I would like to thank the Deputy Secretary-General for his briefing.

The current situation in Somalia is radically different from that which prevailed just a year ago. The transition period has come to an end. The security situation has improved and the country has entered into a new phase, one of transformation with new elected authorities as well as new institutions that have been established. Furthermore, the new federal authorities are undertaking initiatives to implement the six pillars defined in the Government's programme and to interact with regional authorities to promote reconciliation and national unity.

All of those efforts need to be consolidated and accompanied by appropriate steps, such as the Council's adoption in May of resolution 2104 (2013), which established the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). The same goes for the appointment by the Secretary-General of Mr. Nicholas Kay as Special Representative for Somalia and Head of Mission of UNSOM and the holding, on 7 May in London, of another Conference on Somalia, upon the initiative of the United Kingdom.

Great progress has been made in Somalia in the political and security fields, but many significant challenges remain. We were therefore pleased that the London Conference provided an opportunity to take stock of the current situation in Somalia and that the discussions there focused mainly on the country's four priorities, namely, political stability, security, justice and the management of the country's public finances. The importance of the partnership between Somalia and the international community was once again highlighted, and participants committed to providing coordinated and ongoing support for the implementation of the Federal Government's plans. Everyone must now play their part to ensure that those plans are translated into concrete actions on the ground. In that context, we welcome the European Union's plan to hold a new conference on Somalia in September in Brussel. We hope that that conference will lead to decisions and commitments that will support the relaunching of the country's development.

Among the challenges the country must face, the Federal Government will have to resolve, through a comprehensive approach, the outstanding fundamental issues concerning Somalia's long-term stability, namely, political reconciliation, the development of a federal system and the constitutional revision process, including a referendum on the Constitution and preparations for the 2016 elections.

Recent developments in southern Somalia, particularly the setting up of regional administrations in Jubaland, have solidified internal divisions and reflect the magnitude of the challenges facing efforts for reconciliation and the firming up of the federal system. It is crucial not to lose sight of the fact that internal rivalries play into the hands of Al-Shabaab, which still controls vast rural areas. If the Federal Government fails to exert its authority over certain regions, such as Kismayo, it will see its influence undermined in other parts of Somalia.

In that context, the federal authorities should develop and promote good-neighbourly relations with other countries in the region, as their support is vital. We welcome the efforts that have already been made to achieve that goal, in particular in the context of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

The security situation in the country remains fragile, as outlined by the Secretary-General in his most recent report (S/2013/326). The report also states that targeted killings and attacks are reported on a daily basis, while incidents involving explosive devices increased in 2013 as compared with 2012.

We would once again highlight that Somali forces backed by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) have made great sacrifices to promote peace, security and stability in the country. However, although they have caused Al-Shabaab to lose significant ground, that group continues to pose a threat to peace and security in Somalia. It is therefore important to help Somalia reform and rebuild its own security institutions with a view to enabling them to shoulder their responsibilities themselves in the long term.

Once the arms embargo is partially lifted, the Government of Somalia must come up with effective and inclusive security arrangements for the protection of civilians. In that regard, we support the call for increased support to AMISOM, especially with regard to force multipliers, in order that it may, with the support of Somali National Security Forces, consolidate the progress made on the ground and bring more areas under the control of the Somali authorities.

Furthermore, efforts designed to strengthen security are inseparable from those related to the promotion of justice and the rule of law. It is therefore crucial that a credible judicial system in Somalia be set up in order to allow the State to regain the trust of the population and bring about reconcililation in the country.

It is equally crucial that, in the fight against piracy and armed robbery, Somalia take responsibility and develop a comprehensive approach to security in its maritime areas, in order to have the means, with the support of the international community, to itself bring to account those who commit, benefit from or are involved in piracy.

I cannot conclude without briefly discussing the humanitarian situation in Somalia. Due to the ongoing conflict, the country is still in the midst of an extreme humanitarian crisis, in which more than 1 million people are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. The international community must pursue its efforts in a coordinated manner in order to relieve the suffering of those in need.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my country's support for Mr. Nicholas Kay, who has just taken on his new role in Mogadishu. We would also like to pay tribute

to Mr. Augustine Mahiga for having worked with such determination to achieve a significant improvement in the political, security and humanitarian situation in Somalia.

Mrs. Millicay (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to begin by thanking Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson for presenting the Secretary-General's report (S/2013/326) on the situation in Somalia, the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia and the planning for the deployment of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia. I would like to recognize the presence among us of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia, Her Excellency Ms. Fowsiyo Yusuf Haji Adan.

Argentina welcomes the consolidation of the efforts by the Government of Somalia to establish State institutions that are credible and democratic. However, we must be aware of the complexity of the tasks facing the Federal Government in terms of drafting the Constitution and establishing regional administrations that will form the basis for the federal structure of Somalia. In order for these tasks to be successfully completed, there must be an inclusive dialogue leading to the creation of broad consensus.

We welcome the recovery of certain areas near Marka and Buurhakaba by Government forces, their allies and the African Union Mission in Somalia, and we lament the loss of the city of Xuddur, which shows how difficult it is to retain control over areas that are recovered. We continue to be concerned by the unpredictability and fragility of the security situation, in particular as a result of the attacks perpetrated by Al-Shabaab, which continues to launch asymmetric attacks using terrorist tactics that cause civilians deaths.

We welcome the holding of the second London Conference on Somalia, as well as the drafting of the national security plan framework.

The difficult human rights situation is of deep concern to us. Extrajudicial executions and the selective killing of journalists can be added to serious violations of human rights, including children's rights, through deaths, mutilations, the recruitment of child soldiers, sexual abuse, kidnappings and sexual violence, in particular in the internally displaced persons camps in Mogadishu. Such abuses must come to an end. Those responsible are not just Al-Shabaab, but also members of the Somali forces and allied militias.

Argentina believes that those abuses must be investigated properly and those responsible brought to justice. In that respect, the Government must commit decisively to fighting impunity. We welcome the holding by the Government of the national conference to examine the current justice system and to recommend legislative and institutional reforms. That is an essential contribution to cementing the establishment of the rule of law.

Argentina would like to acknowledge the work that the Government has done together with the United Nations to apply a plan of action to put an end to the recruitment, exploitation, murder and mutilation of children. We commend the Somali National Security Forces' delivery to UNICEF of 41 former child soldiers for reintegration. We welcome the signing on 7 May of a communiqué between the Government of Somalia and the United Nations on the prevention of sexual violence.

We welcome the improved humanitarian situation; however, we are still concerned about the fact that 2.7 million Somalis continue to rely on the provision of aid. It is vital to ensure that such humanitarian assistance reaches its destination in order to prevent any deterioration of the situation. It is also essential that the physical persons of humanitarian staff be respected.

Argentina would like to highlight the work being done by the United Nations Office in Somalia and to express its thanks to Mr. Augustine Mahiga, who has facilitated the end of the transition period, and the political process. We would also like to congratulate Mr. Nicholas Kay on his appointment as the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia. His work will have my country's full support as he provides coordination assistance to the Somali authorities, enabling them to consolidate successes in the areas of security and support for the civilian population as well as providing comprehensive support for peacebuilding and the reconstruction of the State. We firmly believe in the importance of maintaining an approach that fully respects the Somalis' responsibility for peacebuilding and implements a long-term strategy for developing their capacities, as well as supporting an accelerated transition from humanitarian aid to economic recovery and development.

Lastly, Argentina would like to pay tribute to the work of the African Union in Somalia through the African Union Mission in Somalia. Its strategic partnership with the United Nations remains crucial, and we are sure that it will continue to play an important role. We would also like to stress the importance of ensuring that the Mission is provided with sustainable and predictable financing mechanisms and the operational capacity necessary for the fulfilment of its mandate. In order to deal with all those challenges, the international community must remain committed to Somalia.

Mr. Li Baodong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank the United Kingdom for its initiative in convening this meeting on Somalia, and to thank Mr. Simmonds for presiding over our discussion. I would also like to thank Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson for his briefing, and to welcome Her Excellency Ms. Fowsiyo Yusuf Haji Adan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia.

Somalia now has a historic opportunity to make the transition from turmoil to stability. A breakthrough was recently made in the peace process. The transitional period has ended smoothly, and the first elected Government and Parliament in 22 years have been formed, starting the process of rebuilding the State. The security and humanitarian situation has also improved, and China welcomes those developments.

We also know that Somalia still has a long way to go to achieve lasting peace and development. The Government is still facing many difficulties and challenges in maintaining stability and promoting reconciliation and development. The security and humanitarian situations remain fragile. Somalia must not falter in its efforts to address those issues, while the international community must also continue to provide strong support. For now, we should focus on the following aspects.

First, in order to make tangible progress in the peace process, we should support the Government's efforts to enforce the provisional Constitution, implement its six-pillar policy and speed up State institution-building, particularly in the areas of security and the judiciary, and to promote a functioning Government capable of administering the entire country effectively.

National reconciliation is the only way that Somalia can achieve long-term stability and security. We urge opposing groups in Somalia to renounce violence and join the political process unconditionally and as soon as possible. We hope that the parties will put the interests of the State and people first, and that in a spirit of solidarity and reconciliation they will temper their differences through dialogue and consultations, so they can work together to maintain the unity and stability of the State as well as its economic and social development.

Secondly, in support of the efforts of regional organizations such as the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to address this issue, China commends the efforts made by countries in the region and regional organization towards achieving peace and stability in Somalia. We hope that in dealing with these issues, the United Nations and the international community will strengthen their coordination with those countries and the relevant regional organizations and take full heed of their opinions. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) plays a vital role in maintaining security and stability in Somalia, and has made sacrifices and an important contribution to that cause. The United Nations and the international community should increase their support to AMISOM and provide it with sustainable and predictable funding.

Thirdly, the United Nations and the international community should play a positive and constructive role in resolving this issue. We hope that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) will be deployed as soon as possible, that it will strengthen its coordination with Somalia and the relevant parties in the international community and carry out its work according to the Council's mandate. We hope the international community will continue to increase the attention and support it gives Somalia and to provide support and assistance for efforts aimed at peacebuilding and reconstruction, particularly the Government's capacity-building efforts. We welcome all efforts on the part of the international community to resolve this issue successfully, including the second London Conference on the issue, held in early May. We also reiterate that the international community should fully respect the sovereignty and independence of Somalia, and that its various components should strengthen their coordination with one another while making full use of their respective advantages.

China follows developments in Somalia closely. We are a firm supporter of the peace process there and have provided assistance, within our capacity

to do so, to Somalia and AMISOM. Along with the international community, we stand ready to make our due contribution to achieving lasting peace and reconstruction in Somalia.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): Thank you, Mr. President, for the United Kingdom's leadership on Somalia. I welcome the presence of Deputy Prime Minister Fowsiyo Yusuf Haji Adan. We admire her singular contribution and history. We are also grateful for the Deputy Secretary-General's briefing. I will circulate a slightly more detailed statement later today.

This is a pivotal time in Somalia's history — a time of great hope and optimism, but also a time when gains remain fragile. But there is a unique window of opportunity that we must open further. The opportunities are significant. Somalia's most representative Government in 20 years is in place in Mogadishu and has outlined strong plans on security, justice and financial management that the international community must remain committed to supporting.

The security gains made by the Somalia National Security Forces, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and strategic partners have been impressive. We would like to recognize the great sacrifices made by AMISOM contributors and the Somali security forces, and we commend the leadership of the African Union (AU).

The new United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) has a strong mandate to support the Government to advance peace and reconciliation, and to coordinate donor support. It responds to the Government's call for "one door to knock on". Close cooperation with the AU will be decisive, and we express our strong support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Kay.

Somalia's economy is picking up, investment is beginning to flow, and the diaspora is returning. That is a cause for optimism. But the challenges are immense, and sustained international support is essential. On the political front, Somalia is moving towards the goal of holding national elections by 2016. That involves building up State institutions, often where central Government structures have not been relevant for a generation; advancing reconciliation; developing a federal system; and undertaking a constitutional review. UNSOM must respond flexibly to the Government's needs for support in those areas.

We know that establishing a federal system will not be easy. Relationships between Mogadishu and local and regional administrations will be critical. We welcome the reopening of dialogue between the Federal Government and Somaliland.

Tensions in the Juba region are of particular concern, and a solution is urgent to avoid the unravelling of recent gains. We welcome the Government's commitment to pursuing reconciliation and the role being played by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. We urge UNSOM to use its good offices in support of this. The Council must pay close attention, and we would welcome a dedicated briefing at some time on this important subject.

More broadly, Somalia's relations with its neighbours are vital, particularly given the intertwined nature of their security challenges. We recognize the role that those neighbours play in assisting refugees and urge the continuation of the work under way by Kenya, Somalia and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to develop a framework for voluntary refugee returns.

The human rights situation remains of grave concern. Levels of sexual and gender-based violence, particularly in camps for internally displaced persons, are alarming. There can be no impunity. The protection of human rights is at the heart of efforts to build a new Somalia, and we welcome the Government's intention to adopt a human rights road map. We will be looking to UNSOM to take forward its strong mandate to assist the Government's human rights capacity and to monitor and report.

Turning to security, we all know that Al-Shabaab, although diminished, remains a threat, as evidenced by the recent attacks in Mogadishu, as well as its ability to regain territory where a security vacuum emerges. It is critical that we support the Government in delivering a peace dividend in recovered areas.

AMISOM is clearly overstretched. The Mission is unable to continue the commendable progress it has achieved in recovering territory with its current resource levels. Its lack of enablers and resourcing constraints threatens its long-term success. We think the time has come for an in-depth analysis of AMISOM's needs in relation to force numbers and configuration, enablers and financing. We look forward to the forthcoming joint review by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the AU. We urge close

cooperation between the United Nations and AU on this exercise, in the spirit of the AMISOM strategic concept produced in 2011-2012, which was an excellent example of the two organizations working together. It will be important for countries that contribute troops to AMISOM be consulted closely.

Of course, the end goal is for Somalia to assume responsibility for its own security. Rebuilding the security services will be a long-term endeavour, but work to consolidate the nucleus of those forces is urgent. Compliance with reporting requirements for the partial suspension of the arms embargo is also important, as are long-term efforts to counter piracy.

In conclusion, we all have a stake in Somalia's success. The conflict has had significant, broader implications for terrorism, refugees and piracy. Like others, we pledge our support to the Federal Government's efforts to ensure that the page is turned, that gains are consolidated, and that Somalia continues down its new path towards peace, stability and prosperity.

Mr. Bertoux (France) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President and Minister, I welcome your participation in today's debate. I welcome also the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Somalia, and I thank the Deputy Secretary-General for his briefing.

For over a year, undeniable progress has been made in Somalia, with the recovering by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali National Security Forces of territories held by Al-Shabaab; the completion of the transition, which marked a political turning point with the election of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud; and even the hope of economic recovery. These developments are undoubtedly positive. Nonetheless, they remain fragile and reversible.

At the security level, progress seems to have reached a plateau. Al-Shabaab has proved to be resilient. It still controls significant areas and has demonstrated, through deadly actions, its ability to conduct destabilization operations in the liberated territories. In addition, as underscored by the Secretary-General, AMISOM no longer seems able to recover new territories.

At the political level, the Government is facing difficulties in establishing the regional administrations. The current tensions in the south, especially in Kismaayo, are the result of various factors: clan rivalries, foreign influences and problems related to the sharing of resources. This crisis has the potential to destabilize southern Somalia and undermine months of progress.

Faced with these challenges, the Council must continue its support for AMISOM and its troops, whose sacrifices are immense. The Council must also continue its support for the Somali authorities, whose duties are just as important. We cannot lose this opportunity to pull Somalia out of the vicious circle in which it has been caught for more than 20 years.

The military effort must be carefully considered in three stages. In the immediate future, we must ensure that the Ethiopian withdrawal from western Somalia takes place in coordination with AMISOM. We must avoid creating a security vacuum, which would allow Al-Shabaab to regain its foothold in the liberated areas. The Ugandan and Burundian contingents must be deployed, in accordance with agreements reached with Ethiopia, as soon as possible.

In the medium term, we must think about a strategy for taking back the Somali territory that remains under the control of Al-Shabaab. We must also think about how to strengthen AMISOM to enable it to expand its area of control. In that context, we must take into account existing budgetary constraints. It should be recalled that, since 2007, the European Union and its member States have been the main financial contributors to this operation, the costs of which have significantly increased since the beginning of 2012. New contributors are now essential in order for the effort to be continued.

In the long term, our strategic priority must be to strengthen the capacity of the Somali forces, which is the only response that could sustainably stabilize the country. To that end, we encourage Member States to strengthen their cooperation with the Somali forces, following the example of the training undertaken by the European Union. We also expect the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) to provide all necessary support to the Somali Government to coordinate international assistance in the area of security.

In the absence of a political solution in connection with regional administration, our military efforts will be insufficient. A negotiated political solution must be found to the current crisis in Kismaayo. To that end, France supports the mediation role of the

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), in accordance with the terms of the communiqué adopted at the summit of the IGAD Heads of State and Government, held in Addis Ababa on 24 May. We call on all parties to exercise restraint and work towards national reconciliation. Neighbouring States should also play a constructive role in helping the Somali Government. UNSOM may, for its part, contribute through its good-offices mandate. In any event, it is essential that the Security Council redouble its monitoring of that issue given its potential for destabilization.

In that regard, my delegation is gratified by the message sent by the draft presidential statement that we will adopt at the end of this debate.

Mr. Gasana (Rwanda): I would like to thank His Excellency Mr. Mark Simmonds, Minister for African Affairs and President of the Security Council, for having organized this important briefing. I take this opportunity to commend the United Kingdom through you, Mr. President, for the positive role it continues to play in favour of Somalia and its people. In that regard, we reiterate our support for the draft presidential statement that will be adopted shortly.

I wish to acknowledge the presence of Her Excellency Ms. Fowsiyo Yusuf Haji Adan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Somalia, and His Excellency Mr. Tekeda Alemu, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia and representative of the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). I also wish to thank His Excellency Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General, for his briefing.

As the people of Somalia continue to rebuild the country, which was described as a failed State during the last two decades, we can today be reasonably optimistic. We are indeed witnessing significant progress towards sustainable peace and stability in Somalia. The Federal Government of Somalia, under the leadership of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, has shown its commitment and willingness to address major challenges, which will ensure peace, stability and development while promoting human rights in Somalia. In that context, we will come to the six-pillar policy framework, adopted by the Federal Government, which aims to tackle the most urgent issues for the Somali people. We call on the international community to continue its support of that aspiration for prosperity and self-reliance.

We praise and acknowledge the tremendous efforts of the Somali National Security Forces, which, with the support of African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), has succeeded in improving security in the country, defeating Al-Shabaab in a number of cities and areas. However, the fight against Al-Shabaab is far from over. We hope that the efforts made by the Somali National Security Forces will be amplified in order to ensure an the full liberation of of Somalia. In that regard, we urge the Security Council to consider positively the request of the African Union (AU) addressed to the Secretary-General to provide additional resources to AMISOM, which is reaching its maximum operational capability. Those necessary resources, which include enablers and force multipliers as well as the means to reconfigure AMISOM forces are critical for the Mission to be able to hold territory and to expand areas under its control.

On that note, we once again reiterate our gratitude to AMISOM, its troop-contributing countries as well as the AU, the IGAD and financial partners, such as the European Union, for their support to Somalia. Furthermore, it is imperative for long-term security in Somalia that the Federal Government undertake security-sector reforms and work at building a strong and professional army able to defend and protect the Somali population while combating Al-Shabaab and any other threats facing the country.

We welcome the establishment of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia and the broad mandate it was entrusted with in support of the Federal Government of Somalia. We stress, however, the need for effective national ownership in the peacebuilding phase. In that regard, we are convinced that Nicholas Kay, the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, has the competence required to lead United Nations efforts on the ground.

On the political process, Rwanda welcomes the commitment of the Government of Somalia to continue its effort to establish regional administrations and to engage country-wide reconciliation and political outreach. We call upon the Federal Government and regional administrations to always aim for dialogue in their relationship in accordance with the provisional federal Constitution.

We acknowledge the imrpovement in the humanitarian situation and we note that the needs remain very significant, with 2.7 million Somalis dependant on

assistance. We urge international solidarity for Somalia and we once again commend the United Kingdom for hosting the Somalia Conference in London on 7 May.

In conclusion, Rwanda stands ready to continue its support of Somalia and assist other countries. Somalia has indeed made significant progress and is ready to own its destiny with the support of bilateral and multilateral partners. Security challenges remain, but we are convinced that Somalia will at last win its battle after two decades of conflicts and statelessness.

Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): I thank the United Kingdom for having convened this meeting during its presidency of the Security Council, providing us with an opportunity to take stock of the situation in Somalia one month after the London Conference on Somalia. Mr. Minister, I also welcome your personal participation. Allow me also to welcome the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia, Ms. Adan.

Somalia has indeed entered a new era. The transition has concluded. Legitimate authorities that enjoy the trust of the majority of the population are consolidating their efforts to promote peace and to establish representative institutions in Mogadishu and beyond. The country, which for far too long has been ravaged by war, is now on the right path, that of political and security progress. However, considerable challenges remain.

With the support of the international community, including the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, the Somali authorities will have to establish a federal system, revise the Constitution and prepare for a referendum on the future Constitution and for elections to be held in 2016. Women should be fully involved in the political process. In parallel, a process of reconciliation should be undertaken between the Federal Government and regional entities, particularly in Kismaayo, where the situation is especially worrisome.

We believe that particular attention should be given to the regional dynamics. The establishment of a regional framework could help build confidence among the States of the Horn of Africa, define the necessary security guarantees and strengthen economic cooperation in that part of Africa. In that context, we welcome the efforts of the Intergovernmental Agency on Development to support stabilization in Somalia.

Security is a precondition for the reconstruction of Somalia. Despite the remarkable efforts of the Somali National Security Forces, their allies and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), Al-Shabaab still controls a large part of the country. We therefore welcome the adoption by the Somali authorities of strategic plans aimed at developing the security and police forces, as well as the judicial system. During the London conference, my country was among those that committed itself to financially supporting security-sector reform. The Federal Government of Somalia will have to be in a position to coordinate the activities of international donors in that area. It must also work to establish a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.

We share the concern of the Secretary-General, who believes that AMISOM has reached its limit in terms of its capacity to retain control of the liberated areas and to continue its offensive operations. We therefore support the Secretariat's intention to carry out this summer, jointly with the African Union, an assessment of AMISOM, with a view to reinforcing the complementarity of United Nations and African Union efforts.

Improved security conditions on the ground will also help to address the root causes of piracy. In that context, the adoption of the new Somali strategy for maritime security is welcome. Luxembourg will continue to provide assistance in that area by making maritime surveillance aircraft available to the European Union's Atalanta Mission.

I will conclude my remarks by briefly addressing the human rights situation, which, regrettably, remains of great concern. The number of journalists killed and of incidents involving sexual violence, particularly in camps for internally displaced persons, and acts of violence against children continue to be alarming. It is important that the Somali authorities ensure that those responsible for such violations of human rights are brought to justice.

In that context, Luxembourg welcomes the commitment undertaken by the Federal Government of Somalia to combat sexual violence and to implement the action plans adopted in 2012 aimed at putting an end to the recruitment and use of child soldiers and to the murder and mutilation of children. It is important in that regard that security-sector reform provide for the

establishment of measures prohibiting the recruitment and use of children by the Somali armed forces.

We are convinced that with the decisive support of the international community — the Brussels conference to be held in September will represent an important step in that respect — and of the Security Council in particular, the Government and the people of Somalia will be able to continue to advance along the path of peace, security and prosperity.

Mr. DeLaurentis (United States of America): Allow me to thank you, Mr. President — Minister Simmonds — for hosting this session and to thank Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson for his briefing. I wish to welcome the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Somalia as well.

At the outset, we would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Mahiga, and to the United Nations Political Office for Somalia for their contributions to Somalia's progress. The United States welcomes the establishment of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), based in Mogadishu, and looks forward to its expanded presence in key locations throughout the country. With a fully integrated United Nations country team, UNSOM will provide the Somali Government "one door to knock on" for United Nations support. We also welcome Nicholas Kay as the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and Head of UNSOM. We support his early outreach to the African Union, as the UNSOM-African Union partnership is critical to fostering peace and stability in Somalia. In addition, we especially want to thank the brave soldiers of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the Ethiopian Defence Forces and the Somali National Security Forces. Their sacrifices have made possible a brighter future for the people of Somalia.

But much work remains. Despite many tactical successes, Al-Shabaab is not yet defeated, and there are others who wish to drag Somalia back into chaos. Recent terrorist attacks show that Mogadishu and many rural parts of Somalia are still vulnerable. We look to the Somali National Security Forces and AMISOM to continue their efforts to expand and maintain control over the country, so that the Somali Government can improve governance and the rule of law. In addition, we urge Member States to fulfil their obligations related to the targeted sanctions, the modified arms embargo and the charcoal ban to stop proceeds from providing revenue to Al-Shabaab.

We strongly support President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's national security strategy and look forward to its implementation. At the second London Conference on Somalia, held on 7 May, the United States announced almost $40 million in new assistance to support development and justice sector reform in Somalia. We applaud those who also made pledges and stress that fulfilling our pledges is essential for continued progress.

Long-term stability in Somalia depends on many factors — an effective, responsible security sector, good governance and the rule of law, and economic development. On the security front, AMISOM's training of the Somali National Security Forces and joint combat operations are critically important. The relocation of the European Union Training Mission in Somalia from Uganda to Mogadishu is another positive development.

We encourage United Nations entities and donors to continue to support economic development, including efforts to address land disputes, which is a key driver of conflict. We recognize the work of the United Nations Development Programme to establish a microfinance mechanism in Somalia and encourage greater attention to youth unemployment.

The United States remains gravely concerned by continuing human rights violations in Somalia, including alarming reports of sexual violence and exploitation. We appreciate the work that Special Representative Bangura has contributed towards the United Nations-Federal Republic of Somalia joint communiqué of 7 May, in which Somalia makes significant commitments to addressing sexual violence. The substantial decline in reported cases of grave violations against children in the first quarter of 2013 is encouraging, but the 552 cases that have been reported remain alarming. We urge increased attention to that overall problem and look to the Somali Government to follow through on its declared intent to work with the international community to fight the scourge and hold perpetrators accountable.

We are also concerned about Somaliland's decision on 14 May to ban United Nations flights over Somaliland airspace. That could harm the humanitarian situation there and affect the provision of food, shelter, water

and sanitation, and other support by humanitarian organizations. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates that approximately 413,000 people in Somaliland need humanitarian aid, including 39,000 children who suffer from malnutrition. More than 85,000 people remain displaced due to recurrent drought and conflict.

Somalia must continue moving along the path to national elections and a referendum on the national constitution by 2016. The United States continues to support Somali-led governance and calls for further dialogue with local political and community leaders, including women, on unresolved regional issues. The situation in Jubaland is particularly concerning. We look to Somalia's neighbours for support in easing the tension and finding lasting solutions. We applaud those regional actors that have played a positive role in supporting Somalia's unity and sovereignty, especially in the early days of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's Administration.

We join those here today who are committed to Somalia's success and will continue to make every effort to support the Government and the people of Somalia as they strive for peace and prosperity in their country.

Mr. Bouchaara (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): Allow me to welcome you among us this morning, Mr. President. I would like to thank the delegation of your country, the United Kingdom, for having organized this important meeting on Somalia at a crucial point in the reconstruction of the Somali State. I also welcome among us Ms. Fowsiyo Yusuf Haji Adan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia. I would also like to thank the Deputy Secretary-General for his statement. Our congratulations also go to Mr. Nicholas Kay on his appointment, and we would like thank Mr. Augustine Mahiga for the remarkable work that he did as Head of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia.

Morocco welcomes the significant progress that has been seen in Somalia as it proceeds along the path of reconciliation and peace. A new dynamic has been launched for the rebuilding of a unified Somali State following a civil war that has lasted more than 20 years. The emergence of the new political situation would not have been possible without the determination of the Somali people and the impetus given to the process of political stabilization by the international community. However, Somalia continues to face a number of challenges which require significant support from its various partners.

The deepening of the political and security achievements made up until now is of primary importance to enabling Somalia to move assuredly towards the next political steps, particularly the establishment of a federal system, the adoption of a constitution and the holding of the elections planned for 2016. The second London Conference, on 7 May, helped to maintain the impetus of the international community to strengthen the capacity of Somalia, particularly in the areas of security, justice and the management of public finances, which are critical aspects to ensuring the stability and the viability of the Somali State.

The gains made in the area of security and the freeing of Mogadishu and other parts of the country were decisively important for the success of the political process and the end of the transitional period in Somalia. We would like to express in that regard our thanks to the Somali security forces and the African Union Mission in Somalia, as well as to the troop contributing countries for their efforts and their sacrifices. However, the security situation in Somalia remains fragile, and the Al-Shabaab movement is still a threat to the peace and security of the country. The loosening of the arms embargo through the resolution 2093 (2013) should strengthen the Somali security forces in order to make it possible for the Somalis to take ownership of their own security and to ensure peace throughout the country.

Somalia needs the help of all partners in order to make progress towards political stability and social development and in order to establish a sustainable economy. We welcome resolution 2102 (2013), on the creation of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia and its deployment, which was adopted a few days ago. It is important to stress the need for there to be greater coordination of international assistance in order to avoid fragmentation and duplication of efforts.

National ownership by the Somalis of the process of reconstruction of their State should be one of the guiding principles for any assistance provided to Somalia, both in terms of political facilitation and economic development. The six priorities of the Somali president provide an adequate framework for strengthening stability in the country on the basis of a Somali national vision.

We welcome the resumption of economic activity in the capital, Mogadishu, thanks to the improvement of the security situation. The promotion of investment in activities that create jobs and the provision of basic services to the Somali population are necessary for ensuring that the gains obtained in matters of peace are lasting. Despite a steep drop in the number of new attacks, piracy along the coast of Somalia is still a worrying concern for international shipping in the region. Solving the problem of piracy in Somalia requires a wide-ranging approach that tackles the root causes, as well as continued international cooperation based on coherent, coordinated action. To that end, the international community must continue to show proof of its solidarity and step up its efforts to conquer the humanitarian crisis in Somalia.

Mr. Pankin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We welcome you, Mr. President, in your capacity as President of this Security Council meeting, which comes as a follow-up to the successful international Conference on Somalia held in London.

We are pleased to welcome Her Excellency Ms. Fowsiyo Yusuf Haji Adan, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Somalia, to the Chamber. We would like to thank Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson for his presentation of the Secretary-General's report (S/2013/326). We agree with his conclusion that the military and political situation in Somalia remains tense and will require corresponding continuing military pressure on Al-Shabaab. That terrorist group still controls a significant piece of the southern and central part of the country and is in active opposition, resorting to partisan attacks on African peacekeepers and security forces and using terrorist tactics, including in Mogadishu, where an extremist underground movement is reportedly still active. Reports of Al-Shabaab's spreading influence in the north of the country can only provoke anxiety. It is essential to reinforce and build on the recent military successes of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the National Security Forces and their Ethiopian colleagues, by acting vigorously, avoiding a military vacuum and speedily occupying the remaining extremist positions so as to allow them no independent local base from which to regain control over liberated areas. And that, unfortunately, has already happened in a number of cases.

In that regard, there can be no doubt as to how essential it is to continue to help to strengthen AMISOM, given its limited resources and increasing area of responsibility. The arms and charcoal embargoes on Somalia and the region remain important tools in the cooperative stabilization effort as long as they are strictly observed by Member States, which is far from always the case. Weapons freely enter Somalia, and charcoal continues to be shipped to consumers, and is a source of significant material and financial sustenance for Al-Shabaab.

Given current realities, one of the Somali Government's priorities should be strengthening the security sector and State institutions, including in areas where it is essential not to leave a political power vacuum in the wake of Al-Shabaab's exit, to provide the population with vital basic services and to advance the political process with the aim of establishing a permanent constitution for the country and holding general elections in 2016.

Tackling the tasks of national reconciliation is just as important, including the reintegration of former combatants and the development of federalism by strengthening links to regional administrations and taking local social traditions and customs into account. We support the Government's efforts to launch a dialogue with representatives of Somaliland and Jubaland on how to conduct mutual relations based on the inviolability of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity and in accordance with its Provisional Constitution. We believe that the role of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) as an intermediary in this area is fundamental.

As before, the humanitarian situation, which is still an acute threat, requires serious attention. The numbers of starving people, the internally displaced and refugees are not falling.

We should not fail to note the positive trend in the fight against piracy. International efforts in that area have led to a substantial drop in the number of pirate attacks. The key to solving the problem still lies in achieving a complex anti-piracy strategy, and above all establishing order on land. Also in the forefront is the task of coordinating efforts to suppress financing channels for piracy, including by applying specific sanctions.

In conclusion, I would like to welcome Mr. Nicholas Kay's start at work as the new Special Representative for Somalia. We hope that the recently created forthcoming United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

(UNSOM) will be rolled out as soon as possible and will busy itself by supporting the Government of the country in resolving the priority tasks of peacebuilding, including security-sector reform and the coordination of international aid. In that regard, it will be essential to refine the mechanisms whereby UNSOM coordinates its activities with the United Nations country team, the African Union and IGAD, and giving special attention to the security situation. We believe that the new United Nations partnership will give impetus to the stabilization process in Somalia, for whose success the primary responsibility lies, of course, with the Somalis themselves. We would like to wish them every success.

Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon (Republic of Korea): At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the United Kingdom for convening today's meeting on the situation in Somalia. We welcome you, Mr. President, in your capacity as President of today's meeting. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Deputy Secretary-General for his comprehensive briefing. And we appreciate the participation in today's meeting of Her Excellency Ms. Fowsiyo Yusuf Haji Adan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia.

As many Council members have emphasized, Somalia is at a critical juncture. There have been signs of hopeful progress as well as daunting challenges. The dangers of Al-Shabaab can easily overshadow many political and security developments. Today, I would like to focus on three points that are crucial to maintaining positive momentum. First, we commend the fact that the second London Conference, held in May, successfully garnered the necessary political will and commitment needed to enhance the political situation in Somalia. We hope that the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) will continue to establish well-functioning State institutions and to settle constitutional issues with firm resolve. Proactive engagement with local authorities will be a big task for it. Dangers still lurk, however. Clan-based rivalry in Jubaland threatens federalism in Somalia and risks inciting further conflict. We strongly encourage the Federal Government and the regional authorities to continue constructive dialogue on consolidating federalism. In that regard, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) provides a useful platform from which the international community can pursue engagement with the Somali authorities in a coordinated and effective manner.

Secondly, addressing the security threats posed by Al-Shabaab is vital. Although it has been weakened by successful operations conducted by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), there is still a risk that the political and security gains achieved so far may be reversed. The Federal Government should continue with its efforts on security sector reform. At the same time, it should also tackle the continuing abuses of civilians by undisciplined elements of the Somali National Security Forces. We appreciate the sacrifices and efforts made by those countries contributing troops and police to the Mission. We also recognize the efforts of the Member States and regional organizations that are contributing financially to sustaining AMISOM's operations.

Another vital necessity is the strict application of the sanctions regime, as the Secretary-General's report (S/2013/326) underscored. The international ban on charcoal from Somalia established by resolution 2036 (2012) is a useful measure for preventing the flow of revenues to Al-Shabaab. In that regard, it is worrying that charcoal is still being produced and exported. The Federal Government should take concrete measures to find a lasting solution to this problem, and Member States should also make the greatest possible effort to implement the embargo on Somali charcoal.

Security Council resolution 2093 (2013) partially suspended the arms embargo in Somalia in order to support the strengthening of its security institutions.

The potential flow of arms into the hands of terrorists should be avoided at all costs. In this regard, the Somali Government and supplying States are strongly requested to abide by the provisions of the resolution. As Chair of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea, the Republic of Korea will do its utmost for the effective implementation of the Somalia sanctions regime.

Thirdly, measures to improve the human rights and humanitarian situations need to be taken. Women and children are the major victims of human rights and humanitarian violations. The level of sexual violence remains high. In this regard, we welcome the joint communiqué issued by the Federal Republic of Somalia and the United Nations on the prevention of sexual violence.

Although the humanitarian situation in Somalia is improving, the need for humanitarian assistance is still grave. In order to help cope with the persistent

humanitarian challenges, the Republic of Korea is now seeking ways to increase bilateral support for Somalia in line with the national plan, in addition to multilateral cooperation.

Long-term sustainable economic development is another key area that the Somali Government and the international community should pursue. We believe that Somalia should first seek a competitive economic basis on which it can advance economic growth. After that, the well-coordinated support of the international community will be crucial in realizing Somalia's vision for economic. In this process we would like to stress that measures to improve the situation in Somalia should be based on the principles of Somali national ownership, partnership and coordination.

Mr. Mehdiyev (Azerbaijan): At the outset, allow me to express our gratitude to you, Sir, for convening and presiding over this important meeting. We are also grateful to Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson for his comprehensive briefing and presentation of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/326). I should also like to welcome the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Somalia, Her Excellency Ms. Fowsiyo Yusuf Haji Adan, to today's meeting.

As the Secretary-General notes in his report, Somalia is on the right path towards achieving stability that could, in turn, create conditions for tangible peace dividends for all Somalis. We welcome the progress made on the political and security fronts in Somalia, and reiterate our strong support for the Somali authorities in their efforts to overcome the obstacles to achieving reconciliation and to build and secure a united, democratic and prosperous nation.

The international conference convened in London 7 May agreed on the need for the sustained engagement of the international community to support the long-term State-building efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia. We are confident that the Brussels conference will be another important milestone in providing results-oriented support for the peace and development process in Somalia.

The Council's approval of the Secretary-General's vision for the new, full-fledged United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) represents a renewed commitment on the part of the United Nations to assisting the Federal Government in creating a political and strategic environment conducive to peacebuilding in Somalia. We believe that the six-pillar policies defined by the President of Somalia constitute a solid basis for a comprehensive and multidimensional strategy that will further contribute to political and national reconciliation, the swift and effective implementation of security-sector reforms, economic recovery and development. We note the strong political will of the Federal Government to rebuild Somalia's war-torn society and to push forward the peacebuilding and State-building process.

We also share the Federal Government's view that security is the essential prerequisite for further progress in all other spheres. It is crucial to continue to make all necessary efforts in order to effectively address the threats and challenges posed by terrorist and armed opposition groups, in particular Al-Shabaab, including by supporting and implementing measures against those internal and external actors who attempt to undermine the country's peace process. There is thus an urgent need for enhanced support to the Somali National Security Forces and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), particularly through the allocation of additional investments and resources. Such support is indispensable for sustaining security gains and creating conditions for further peacebuilding.

Azerbaijan stresses the importance of the consistent, strong commitment of the Security Council and the broader international community to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia. In that context, we take positive note of the recent dialogue between the Federal Government and Somaliland in Ankara as a significant step towards peace and stability in Somalia. At the same time, we share the concern expressed over the situation in Kismaayo at the twenty-second summit of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, held in Addis Ababa. Additional efforts are also needed in combating piracy, armed robbery and hostage-taking off the coast of Somalia.

It is important to ensure that national commitments are matched with the strong support and assistance of the international community. Full respect for the relevant international law is a necessary precondition for the effectiveness of the anti-piracy response and international cooperation.

In conclusion, let me pay tribute to the United Nations, the African Union, AMISOM and the troop-contributing countries for their continuing commitment to bringing peace and stability to the country. I

should like also to commend the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the League of Arab States, the European Union and individual Member States for their contribution to achieving peace and national reconciliation in Somalia and mobilizing assistance to meet the urgent needs of the peoples affected by the humanitarian crisis.

Mr. Masood Khan (Pakistan): We thank you, Sir, for presiding over the Security Council's debate, and we welcome Her Excellency Ms. Fowsiyo Yusuf Haji Adan to the Council. We thank Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson for presenting the report of the Secretary-General on Somalia (S/2013/326) and for his concise and action-oriented briefing to the Council.

Pakistan welcomes the continuing transition towards peace and stability in Somalia. The Secretary-General's determination that Somalia is on the right path to achieve stability and progress is reassuring. The four-year strategic plan adopted by the Parliament and the Government's six-pillar policy to revitalize national institutions demonstrate the leadership's strong commitment to rebuilding Somalia, which was wracked by decades of strife and civil war.

The efforts by the Federal Government of Somalia to establish credible State institutions and to reach out to the various subregions will consolidate democracy and federalism in the country. We applaud the close personal engagement of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud to pursue national reconciliation and hope that his efforts will pave the way for the finalization of the Constitution and the holding of national elections in 2016. In the context of that effort, the good offices of the United Nations will be most helpful.

Despite the obvious progress made, Somalia still faces daunting challenges. Power-sharing among federating units, the distribution of revenues and resources, the establishment of local administrative institutions, the provision of basic services and the return of refugees and internally displaced persons require strenuous efforts and adequate resources.

The most serious of all challenges is security and stability, which is threatened by a defiant and recalcitrant Al-Shabaab and other militant outfits. Somalia cannot overcome those problems on its own; it needs sustainable international support. Such support was evident at the London Conference last month, where concrete pledges were made to assist Somalia in strengthening its armed forces and police, rebuilding the justice sector and improving public financial management. We appreciate the efforts of the United Kingdom in organizing the Conference. We agree with you, Sir, that Somalia should not be allowed to backslide under any circumstances.

Rebuilding Somalia is closely linked to security. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has brought vast areas of the country under the Government's control. We commend the AMISOM troop-contributing countries for their resilience in fighting asymmetric threats posed by terrorists and extremists.

It is gratifying to note that AMISOM has made crucial gains in all sectors of its operations. To maintain its high level of success, AMISOM needs continued international assistance in the form of predictable logistical support, and enablers and force multipliers to undertake its operations.

We welcome the establishment of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). It is important that UNSOM establish a significant presence in the country and undertake its mandate-related tasks with the full ownership of the Somali Government. We congratulate Special Representative of the Secretary-General Nicholas Kay on his appointment.

UNSOM should also assist Somalia and the international community in eradicating the menace of maritime piracy. We appreciate the proposal made by the Secretariat to include a multidisciplinary task force on maritime issues in UNSOM. The recent reduction in piracy-related incidents off the Somali coast is encouraging. However, we should not lower our guard.

Pakistan will continue to support Somalia bilaterally and as a member of the Security Council, the Organzation of Islamic Cooperation Contact Group on Somalia and the United Nations Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. As always, our Somali brothers and sisters will find Pakistan a steadfast partner.

The President: I now give the floor to Her Excellency Ms. Fowsiyo Yusuf Haji Adan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

Ms. Adan (Somalia): I am honoured to be here today, and I thank the Council for this opportunity to inform the Security Council of the progress and recent developments in the Federal Republic of Somalia.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Deputy Secretary-General for his comprehensive briefing on Somalia, and I thank you, Mr. President, and the members of the Council for your personal engagement and support for Somalia. I have no doubt that our collective desire to achieve the common goal of a peaceful and thriving Somali nation will prevail.

The Council's commitment and sustained effort in support of our Government's policies and priorities is critical as we work together to bring about an economically, politically and socially stable Somalia. We are obliged to the Council and the United Nations for bringing international attention to the challenging circumstances facing the Somali nation.

Somalia welcomes United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and Mr. Nicholas Kay, and congratulates him on assuming his duties in Somalia, on 3 June.

Since my last statement before the Council, on 14 February (see S/PV.6921), there have been significant and encouraging developments in my country. Somalia has finally rejoined the community of nations and is moving from emergency to recovery. The Government has adopted and is now implementing the six-pillar policy framework, a credible and relevant political platform based on the principles of the foundation of a new Somalia, with the objective of creating an achievable and applicable political platform.

Security is improving as Somali and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) forces and their Ethiopian allies recover towns and routes previously held by Al-Shabaab. The number of pirate attacks committed off the coast of Somalia has also drastically decreased.

Without the support of AMISOM and the troop-contributing countries, such as Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Burundi, Djibouti, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, Somalia would not be where it is today. The ultimate sacrifice of those troops in the quest towards the noble goal of peace and security for Somalia will be indelibly recorded in the history of Somalia.

The Government is in control of more areas than at any other time in the past 20 years. Many areas have recovered from the enemy, Al-Qaida. Al-Shabaab has lost fighters, finances and territory, and their morale is low. Both young people and adults continue to defect from the misery that terrorism offers.

However, we should be under no illusion that the road is cleared of obstacles. Challenges still remain. Al-Qaida and Al-Shabaab are still a threat to peace and security. Millions still live in camps for internally displaced persons and refugees, and the country lacks developed Government structures, schools, hospitals, sanitation and other basic services. We have those problems and issues to overcome. Our most pressing concern is to bring to an end the constant threat and cycle of conflict that bubbles beneath the surface in so many of our communities.

The positive news, however, is that the famine has receded, the diaspora has begun to return, and the economy is starting to recover. Piracy off the coast of Somalia is down. There were only 36 confirmed pirate attacks in 2012, as compared to 176 in the previous year. Only five ships were captured, down from 25 in 2011. Overall, the number of ships seized has fallen by 80 per cent as compared to the previous year, and that is matched by the falling cost to the global economy by some $580 million, or 12.5 per cent since 2011.

After more than 20 years of war and anarchy, Mogadishu, the capital, is finally enjoying relative calm. But we remain vigilant, and the President is deeply engaged in alleviating the problem, not only through security measures, but also by creating initiatives promoting development and employment for all, including potential pirates and former militia groups. We are reforming our justice sector, rebuilding our armed forces, developing our police forces and revolutionizing our public finance management. However, we lack developed Government institutions and are reviewing our Constitution, which is only partially complete.

On the foreign affairs front, the Government achieved several foreign policy goals it had planned to achieve in the first six months. Those include the formal recognition of the United States Government, which has already led to many more doors opening up. That includes the reinstatement of Somalia's membership in the World Bank and International Monetary Fund and a partial lifting of the arms embargo by the Council. More embassies have been opened in Mogadishu, with the United Kingdom being the most recent Government to open an embassy there, and ambassadors are queuing up to hand in their credentials. That also includes the most recent finalization of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) summit agreement. We have been engaging with and encouraging the

diaspora communities to come back and rebuild the country, signing joint communiqués with Ethiopia, Kenya and several other countries, and actively participating and co-hosting and organizing major international conferences.

Our collective vision is for a federal Somalia at peace with itself and its neighbours that poses no threat to the world and actively contributes to regional and international issues. Somalia is moving forward, finally returning to take its place among the community of nations.

Also indicative of that progress was the recent holding of the London Conference on Somalia, co-hosted by Prime Minister David Cameron and President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. The conference lifted Somalia further. The Somali people are grateful to the United Kingdom for that successful initiative. It was followed the next day by a private-sector investor conference, which was imbued with the knowledge that there was growing investor confidence, improvements in security and promising signs of opportunities for business throughout Somalia. Another positive event was the holding of the Nairobi conference organized by Somali diaspora groups on private-sector investment in Somalia, which was well attended. We also welcome the Brussels conference to be organized by the European Union in September.

Somalia is rich in natural resources and has a lot of potential. The key to unlocking all that potential is support, development investment and recognition. Somalia is blessed with the longest coast in Africa, the highest per capita availability of livestock, some of the richest marine resources in the region, more than 8 million hectares of agricultural land, rivers flowing into the sea, as well as minerals, gas, oil, uranium, coal, titanium, to mention but a few of the resources. The Government is fully aware that the long-term economic and social viability of the country will depend upon our ability to lay the policy foundations and establish the confidence-building measures that will allow the domestic private sector to flourish, and likewise attract foreign investment in the Somali economy.

Somalia is fully committed to the "New Deal" and compact initiatives. However, based on our Government's action plan, we must understand that the stabilization of Somalia is dependent upon on the robust development of the security sector. In particular, we need to establish the rule of law, develop an effective justice system and strengthen the capabilities of the national security forces. The military gains of the past year are at stake if the national security forces lack training and equipment.

Ultimately, however, we should rely on fair, just and effective governance as the most effective way to bring peace and security to our nation. We are painfully aware that our forces lack discipline and professionalism. The President has personally engaged in enhancing control and oversight over the armed forces. Rogue individuals acting with impunity cannot be tolerated, nor can violations of human rights. We all agree that strict monitoring and accountability must be put in place to ensure that our forces perform and operate in accordance with international convention on human rights.

The current Government will not tolerate any abuse or violation of human rights. We are particularly committed to abolishing the recruitment of child soldiers in armed conflict. Furthermore, we are committed to preventing sexual violence and to implementing the joint communiqué that my Government signed on the margins of the London Conference on Somalia held on 7 May.

The Federal Government of Somalia is committed to implementing gender-sensitive policies and programmes for women, so as to ensure that all women are legally protected against violence and exploitation. We seek further international support for that endeavour, and we want to assure the Council of our firm commitment.

On the Juba regions, the Federal Government of Somalia welcomed the recommendations of the IGAD mission that visited Mogadishu and Kismayo. We also welcomed the recent IGAD communiqué following the meeting held in Addis Abeba on 24 May, which recommended that the Federal Government of Somalia convene a reconciliation conference with the support of IGAD. The communiqué also recommended that the Government consult key stakeholders in the Juba regions of Somalia, with the goal of developing a road map that establishes an interim administration and permanent regional administrations in accordance with the provisional Constitution and with IGAD playing a supporting role.

My Government is therefore ready to lead reconciliation efforts in the Juba regions and to hold a genuine reconciliation conference with key stakeholders

in order to devise a programme and plans to establish an interim administration that can lead to the formation of federal unit states in accordance with the provisional Constitution. We therefore urge UNSOM, IGAD and other appropriate actors to support the process.

The Federal Government of Somalia is mandated to represent the interests of all Somali people, including those who are silent and powerless as they look for the Government to safeguard their constitutional rights. The culture that developed over the past two decades in Somalia due to the lack of a functioning State was one in which everyone and every group claimed the right to represent the Somali people. The Federal Government sent a committee to Kismayo to start a process of reconciliation based on a road map that outlines the way forward until federal units are established in the regions.

I would also like to report to the Council that, with the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Kenya — with whom I have spent more time working than any other Foreign Minister, which is a sign of the closeness between our two countries; not just in proximity in physical proximity but also in the depth and breadth of cooperation and interests that ties our two countries and the region at large — we have launched a joint cooperation commission that will be responsible for promoting and enhancing cooperation between our two countries. The commission will also coordinate the implementation of all bilateral agreements to be concluded between us. We also signed a similar agreement with Ethiopia a few months ago.

Before I conclude, I would like again to express our thanks and gratitude to the Security Council, the African Union, IGAD, the European Union and other members of the international community for their continued support to Somalia on peace enforcement and stabilization efforts. I also wish to thank all the Governments who made pledges during the London Conference totaling more than $300 million. On behalf of my President and the people of Somalia, may I also pay the utmost tribute to Ambassador Susan Rice for her unrelenting efforts and support to my people and the people of Somalia, which will not be forgotten. I would also like to thank Ambassador Mahiga for his relentless and hard work during his tenure in Somalia.

In conclusion, allow me to leave members with the words of Hassan Sheikh Mohamud: "Winning the war in Somalia has proved that winning the peace will take patience and great skill. We are at a critical juncture, and the time is now."

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Ethiopia.

Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the countries members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which held two extraordinary summit sessions on Somalia in the course of past month alone, specifically on 3 and 24 May. Before getting into the substance of what those two sessions dealt with, let me take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. President and dear Minister, for coming to New York to preside over this important meeting. We are very grateful to your country for having taken up the situation in Somalia very seriously — and with a lot of care, I might add. The latest meeting, of 7 May, that the United Kingdom co-hosted with Somalia at Lancaster House was a further affirmation of the readiness by the United Kingdom to make a significant difference in Somalia and in the broader IGAD region.

Let me also take this opportunity to welcome the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia, Her Excellency Ms. Fowsiyo Yusuf Haji Adan, who has been instrumental in the further consolidation of peace in Somalia and in strengthening and expanding the ties of friendship among IGAD member States. Her wisdom and pragmatic approach to difficult issues have been a source of strength for IGAD.

I also wish to thank the Deputy Secretary-General for being here and for his contribution in this domain and other areas, which he makes with very welcome passion. We are very grateful to him.

There is absolutely no doubt that Somalia is on a very encouraging and promising trajectory. In a number of ways, the issues that are of concern today in Somalia bear no resemblance to the challenges the country faced not long ago. Not that complacency is justified, for some of the security challenges still exist — Al-Shabaab has not been totally defeated — which is why IGAD countries continue to call for the situation in Kismayo not be allowed to distract attention from the urgent task of maintaining the momentum in the fight against that extremist group. That was underlined by IGAD Heads of State and Government at their meetings on 3 and 24 May.

Strategically speaking, Al-Shabaab is on the way out, not because it has lost the military wherewithal but because it has absolutely no popular support. The fact that the people of Somalia have decided to embrace their new Government is very obvious. That is where more work is needed on the part of both the Federal Government and the international community. That is also where the London Conference on Somalia of 7 May was extremely significant. The Lancaster House Conference has given further impetus to more coordinated international support to Somalia. The Conference also outlined the critical areas where further input is necessary to ensure that the momentum is maintained in Somalia.

We have always emphasized how critical it is for the Federal Government to continue to build its credibility, and therefore its legitimacy, among the people of Somalia. That is a major undertaking that can be fulfilled only when the Government is in a position to deliver services to the people. We believe that the call in the London Conference communiqué with respect to the development of a longer-term sustainable financing architecture for Somalia, including a World Bank multi-donor trust fund, is an initiative that should be pursued in earnest. As has been suggested, that could serve as a vehicle for the normalization of Somalia's financial relationship with the international financial institutions. In the meantime, it is IGAD's hope that partners will make serious effort to make use of the special financing facility and the rule-of-law fund as mechanisms to channel funding to enhance the Government's capacity to deliver basic services to the people in a variety of areas.

For IGAD countries, there are few priorities as critical and as vital as the security, stability and regeneration of Somalia. That explains why, in the course of May, as I mentioned a while ago, our leaders held two extraordinary sessions. They did so because of their conviction that there was a need for more speeded-up efforts at national reconciliation in Somalia. At their meeting on 3 May, they agreed to establish five principles, namely, the leadership of the Government in the process of reconciliation; respect for the provisional Constitution; an all-inclusive consultative process; a supporting role for IGAD based on the priorities of the Somali Government; and fighting Al-Shabaab as the primary focus of the Somali Federal Government, AMISOM and regional and international partners.

The logic behind the emphasis given to the fight against Al-Shabaab has to do with fact that a loss of momentum in that fight, let alone a reversal of the gains so far made, would easily herald an unravelling of the entire situation, which has been the source of so much hope and confidence. That is why IGAD Heads of State and Government have underlined the fight against Al-Shabaab as the primary focus of cooperation among the Somali Federal Government, AMISOM and regional and international partners.

At this point, let me express how pleased we are to welcome the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Nicholas Kay, in whom we have great confidence and with whom we look forward to working very closely, as in fact we did with Ambassador Mahiga, to whom we remain indebted. It was during Ambassador Mahiga's tenure that we came up with a very innovative mechanism of tripartite consultation among the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, AMISOM and IGAD. It was quite an achievement. We are hopeful that Mr. Kay might wish to look at that experience closely, because it might be useful. All the same, IGAD countries look forward to working with him closely, and we are pleased that the United Nations Assistance to Mission to Somalia (UNSOM) was launched a few days ago.

Let me conclude by reiterating the commitment of IGAD countries to working closely with UNSOM. We remain hopeful that the international community will help to ensure that the planned conference on the repatriation of Somali refugees will be a success. Of course, we are very grateful to all those who called for this meeting for enhanced support to AMISOM, which is long overdue. I also wish to acknowledge the sacrifices made by AMISOM and Ethiopian troops.

The President: The Council has before it the text of a draft presidential statement on the subject of today's meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Council members for their valuable contributions to it.

In accordance with the understanding reaching among members of the Council, I shall take it that the members of the Council agree to the statement, which will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2013/7.

It is so decided.

There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded

the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Could I personally add my thanks to all participants for their significant contributions today. Finally, let me emphasize the importance of maintaining the momentum and high energy levels.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.